SRI C. M. ARUMUGHAM.—There is a lot of agitation regarding this. Let us know whether the Government are definite as to when the elections are going to be held ? ' As early as possible ' has taken four years.

SRI H. C SRIKANTAIAH.—Government are definite about holding the elections. It is rather difficult for me to say on what particular date we are holding the elections. Anyway, we are going to conduct the elections definitely.

Recruitment of Assistant Engineers in P.W.D.

294 SRI C. M. ARUMUGHAM (K.G.F.)—Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) whether that the PWD have not recruited any Assistant Engineers (now Assistant Executive Engineers) for the last 10 years, and if so, the reasons ;

(b) the number of promotions from Junior Engineers to Assistant Engineers made during the last three years.

(c) the number of promotions effected among the SC/STs in the cadre during the last three years ?

SRI S. BANGARAPPA (Minister for Public Works)

(a) The PWD has not recruited any Assistant Engineers Division I (now Assistant Executive Engineers Division I) since 1962. The direct recruitment made during the year 1961 was challenged by way of writ petitions

As Writ Petitions were pending and decision of Supreme Court was also awaited, no direct recruitment to the posts of Assistant Executive Engineers was possible for quite some time.

(b) 1976—Nil.

1977—94 (from the cadre of Junior Engineers).

1978—149 (from the cadre of Assistant Engineers).

34 (from the cadre of Junior Engineers).

(c) Seven Scheduled Caste Assistant Engineers have been promoted as Assistant Executive Engineers during the year 1978. No Scheduled Tribe candidate has been promoted.

SRI C. M. ARUMUGHAM—It is stated in the reply that as writ petitions were pending and decision of the Supreme Court was also awaited, no direct recruitment to the posts of Assistant Executive Engineers was posible for quite some time. May I know whether

there was any direction from the High Court or the Supreme Court not to have further recruitment ?

† SRI S. BANGARAPPA—The Supreme Court or the High Court never directed that further recruitments should not be made. The Supreme Court and the High Court have given the decision relating to some defects in the matter of promotions to the Assistant Engineers and therefore, it took a very long time. It is only on that score, the matter was delayed, but there was no direction from either the Supreme Court or the High Court regarding further recruitments.

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ವಿ. ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ—ಅಸಿಸ್ಟೆಂಟ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರುಗಳು ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರೂ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಬಡ್ತಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ; ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು ವರ್ಷವಾದರೂ ಬಡ್ತಿ ಸಿಗುವ ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಹೀಗಿರುವಾಗ, ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವೆ ? ಇದರಿಂದ ಬೇರೆಯವರಿಗೆ ಬಡ್ತಿ ಸಿಗುವ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪಿಸಿದಂತಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆ ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಬಂಗಾರಪ್ಪ—ಈ ಕುರಿತು ದ್ವಂದ್ವ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳಿವೆ. ಒಂದನೆಯದಾಗಿ, ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗೆ ಇಂತಿಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣವೆಂದು ಗೊತ್ತು ಮಾಡುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಎರಡನೆಯದಾಗಿ, ಬಡ್ತಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಇಂತಿಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣವೆಂದು ಗೊತ್ತು ಮಾಡುವುದು. ಈ ಎರಡು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳನ್ನೂ ಗಣನೆಗೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬಡ್ತಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಬರುವುದಕ್ಕನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವಿಡಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

SRI C. M. ARUMUGHAM—Is it a fact that the Government has taken a decision to recruit 25 Asst. Engineers through P.S.C. to fill up the stop gap of the representations of SCs in Public Works Department ?

SRI S. BANGARAPPA—Yes, It is a fact.

SRI C. M. ARUMUGHAM—Even though the decision was taken in December 1977, may I know the reasons for not recruiting 25 Asst. Engineers so far ?

SRI S. BANGARAPPA—The rules are being finalised and the matter is pending with the Law Department. Very shortly, these rules will be published and action will be taken under the rules to fill up these 25 posts.

SRI C. M. ARUMUGHAM—In the year 1977, 94 persons (from the cadre of Junior Engineers) and in 1978, 149 persons (from the cadre of Asst. Engineers) and 34 persons (from the cadre of Junior Engineers), have been promoted. Out of these two lots, how many Asst. Engineers belonging to SC have been promoted as Asst. Executive Engineers ?

SRI S. BANGARAPPA—While answering (c), we have stated that 7 SC Asst. Engineers have been promoted as Asst. Executive Engineers during the year 1978 and no ST candidate has been promoted.

SRI C. M. ARUMUGHAM—The Government has issued the orders that from April 1978 onwards, there should be reservation in promotions. Did the Department follow the reservation in promotion orders while promoting 149 and 34 persons in 1978 ?

SRI S. BANGARAPPA—We have taken a decision to give their quota of promotions to SCs/STs. We have been maintaining it. I am very keen on that issue.

SRI C. M. ARUMUGHAM —I am thankful to the Hon. Minister. I want to know whether the reservation in promotion order has been followed while giving promotions in 1978 and if so, how many SC persons were promoted ?

SRI S. BANGARAPPA—I think answer given to (c) is in relation to question (b). Earlier, proper representation was not given to SCs/STs, and that is why, the Cabinet took a decision to fill up about 25 posts by SCs/STs candidates to make up the quota. I am going to issue orders very shortly. I will check up whether the quota for SCs/STs has been given out of 94, 149 and 34 promotions made during the years 1977 and 1978, and then give a reply.

Misappropriation of Funds in "Hal-Utpadaka Sahakari Sangha Ltd." Shantibastawad.

320 SRI P. A. PAWASHE (Uchagaon)—Will the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is misappropriation in "Hal Utpadak Sahakari Sangha Ltd.," Shantibastawad in Belgaum Taluk ;

(b) if so what is the amount that has been misappropriated ;

(c) who is responsible for the same ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Co-operative Department has started proceedings against the Ex-Chairman, Sri Ningappa Fakira Hirje ?

SRI V. M. KUSNOOR (Minister for Co-operation)—

(a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 11,541.81.

(c) The Auditor of Co-operative Societies, Belgaum-1, who has audited the Accounts of the Society for the year 1976-77 in his special report dated 20th March 1978, has held Sri N. F. Birje, Ex-Chairman of the Society has responsible for the misappropriation of the cash balance of Rs. 11,541.81.

(d) Yes.